

The Late

141

KEEPERS
OF THE
English Liberties
Drawn to the LIFE:
IN THE
QUALIFICATIONS
Of Persons by Them declar'd Capable to serve in
PARLIAMENT.



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Сибирь

The Late

Keepers of the Liberties OF ENGLAND, Drawn to the LIFE, &c.

WHereas it is notorious to all that have either *Ears* or *Eyes*,
 That the late *Representative* of the *Parliaments* of *England*
 did, for many years, employ their constant Endeavours
 to impose *Freedom* and *Liberty* upon the *Three Nations*; maugre all
 Their obstinate Reluctancy, and Opposition thereunto, who presum'd
 to take upon them, against Right and Reason, to be their own
 Judges: And whereas, after *Two scandalous Ejections*, (occasioned
 by the Practices of those Ambitious *Apostates*, *Cromwell* and *Lam-
 bert*) and as many signal *Restorations*, they happily Return'd to
 discharge the remaining *Fragment* of their *Trust*: It graciously
 pleased them to make known to all men, That *Then* and *There*, find-
 ing (to their unspeakable Grief) the *Red-Coat Soldiers* (in Whom
 They ever Loyally acquiesc'd) by failing in their *Pay*, to fail like-
 wise of their *Trust*; and (seduc'd by *Evil Counsel*) to adhere to the
Common Enemy, (that is to say, the said *Three Nations*) in comply-
 ing with their *Designs* and *Addressess*, either to have the said *Repre-
 sentative* *Dissolv'd*, and a *Free Parliament* speedily *Conven'd*, or the
Secluded Members *Re-admitted*; or else the *Then House* supply'd
 with *New Elections*: They did (when they saw there was no other
 Remedy) after serious and mature Deliberation, (though trem-
 bling at the very Thought of any one of the *Propositions*, yet) Re-
 solve upon Filling up of their *House*, as conceiving *That* course
 (though of most Dangerous Consequence too) to be less Horrible

and Dreadful to themselves, than either of the Other. And to the end that the Persons to be ~~Elected~~, might match the Members of the said *Representative* as near as possible, and so go hand in hand with them in carrying on the *Work of the Lord*; they did (on the 14th. day of February 1659.) unanimously Accord and Enact, that no Person whatsoever should dare to *Elect*, or to be *Elected*, (under pain of Confiscation of his *Estate*, and Sale of his *Person*) that was not allow'd Capable thereof, by the following *Qualifications*; in which they did profess, before the *Searcher of all Hearts*, that they had freely discover'd the *Naked Truth* of all their *Intentions*; as, if their *Breasts* were open'd, and their *Hearts* taken out, (as some of them afterwards were) it would manifestly appear to all the World.

Q U A L. I.

Whosoever hath, at any time, been known to take the Name of *God in Vain*; that is, to *Swear* or *Forswear* himself for *Nothing*, without Advantage either to the *Publique*, or his own *Particular Concerns*, but merely out of *Rash* and *Needless Prophanation*; All such are declar'd utterly Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, as *Members to serve in Parliament*. For *Oaths* have been found, by Experience, to be wonderful Expedients in *State-Affairs*; and ought not to be *Made*, or *Broken*, but with great and serious Consideration.

Q U A L. II.

Whosoever is noted to be a *Sabbath-breaker*, or *Prophaner of the Lord's day*, is declar'd Incapable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, &c. For he that cannot *One day in Seven*, observe (at least in *show*) *One Commandment in Ten*, that costs nothing the *Keeping*, nor gains any thing by being *Broken*, is deem'd not fitly *Qualify'd* to sit in *Parliament*: Because all such *Sins* as have no immediate Relation to the *Service of the House*, ought to be openly detested, to the end that the less Notice be taken of such as are for the *Advantage* and *Interest* of the same.

Q U A L. III.

Whosoever hath, at any time, since 1640. been observ'd to be *Disguis'd in Drink*; unless he can produce *Testimony* that it is his *usual*

usual Custom to drink himself Drunk; alone in private, to avoid giving Ill Example, or else in secret and well-affected Company without Healths; is declar'd Incapable to Elect, or be Elected: Always provided, that Surfeit and Gluttony be not included within this Incapacity; nor such other Disorders, as may fall upon a mans Spirit at Thanksgiving-Dinners.

Q U A L. IV.

Whosoever doth live in Adultery or Fornication; or hath, at any time, had Carnal Copulation with the Wife, Sisters, or Daughter of any of the present Members of Parliament, without the Consent or Satisfaction of the said Member; or hath been seen, in the Day-time, to resort to Houses of Evil fame; or frequent the Company of Common Women; is declar'd Incapable to Elect, or be Elected, &c. Provided that This do not extend to any Person that hath kept a Concubine or Concubines so long, that now there is no notice taken thereof; or to such as by the loss of their Eyes, or Noses, Boches in their Skins, or Aches in their Bones, can bring proof of their Repentance, and Resentment of their former Lives: As it hath been allow'd in the Cases of W. Lord Viscount M. Sir H. M. Thomas Scot Esq; and others.

Q U A L. V.

Whosoever hath suffer'd for his Conscience, either by Imprisonment, Sequestration, or Sale of his Estate; or hath refus'd to take any Oath imposed by the Parliament, howsoever Contradictory to any former Oath by him taken; or hath gain'd nothing by the Ruine of his Native Country, nor is liable to suffer by any Revolution that may tend to the Settlement thereof; but, being Unbjaſſ'd by any Party, is at Liberty to promote the Proper and Natural Interests of the Nation in General: Or hath subscrib'd any Petition, or Remonstrance for a Free Parliament, or for the Re-admission of the Secluded Members to their Rights of Sitting; or for a time to be prefixt, to determine the Sitting of This Parliament; or any thing else, against the Sense of the House; or hath declar'd against Taxes, Excise, Free-Quarter, Plunder, Arbitrary Government, the Perpetuation and Supremacy of this present Parliament, Continuation of the Distractions, Decay of Trade, and Slavery of the English Nation: Any, and Every such Person is (*ipso facto*) declar'd not only Incapable to Elect, or be Elected

Elected a Member of the present, or any future Parliament, or to bear any Office, or Place of Trust in the Commonwealth; but shall suffer such further Punishment, either by Sequestration, or Sale of his Estate, or Person, as to the Wisdom of this House shall seem expedient.

Q U A L. VI.

Whosoever hath call'd *Charles Stuart, King*; or drank his *Health*, or pray'd God to *Restore him to his Right*, and every *Honest man* to his *Own*; or us'd any such *Malignant and Treasonable Expressions*: or hath call'd the *Present Parliament, Rump, Arse, Bum, Tail, or Breech*: or hath rejoiced at the *Interruption* thereof, and wish'd it at an end; or hath *Sw'd, Arrested, Revil'd, Beaten, Kickt, Cuckolded, Trepanned*, or refus'd to *Trust* any of the *Members* thereof, during the *Intervals*: or hath any *Action of Debt, or Bill of Complaint* against any *Member* now *Sitting*, and doth refuse to give the *said Member a Full Discharge, and General Release*: Any and every such Person, is declar'd utterly *Incapable to Elect*, or be *Elected to Serve in the present, or any future Parliament, or of bearing any Office or place of Trust, in the Commonwealth.*

Q U A L. VII.

No man shall be judg'd rightly *Qualif'd*, nor admitted to Sit in this *House*, as a *Member* thereof, that doth not, First, acknowledg this *Parliament* to be a *Free Parliament*, unbounded by the *Laws of God or Man*; that all things are expos'd to the *Will of the Members* thereof, who may freely dispose of the *Estates, Persons, Consciences, and Lives of men* as *they* please, and, *afterward*, make it *Lawful*: That this *House* hath a greater Power in *Civil Affairs* than the *Turk*, and, in *Spiritual*, than the *Pope*; (for it is *Head of Churches* not yet in *Being*, and *judg* of more *Faith*, than all the *General Councils* ever were;) that it can *Damn and Save*, and *Bind and Loose* in this *World*, in despite of the *Next*; make what it pleases *Holy, or Profane, True, or False, Scripture, or Apocrypha*, and no man dares to question its *Infallibility*: and that every *Member* thereof can *Vote and Swear Contradictions*, and make others do so too.

Q U A L. VIII.

No man shall be judg'd rightly *Qualif'd*, nor admitted to Sit in this *House*, until he hath engag'd to use his *Christian Endeavour* to carry

carry on a thorow Reformation of the Calendar; that the English Nation may no more use the Julian Account, nor reckon by the Year of our Lord but by the Roman Indiction, according to the Custom of the Christians in ancient Times; that is, reckon the Year by their Taxes, and not their Taxes by the Year: A Reformation which this Parliament made some Progress in before their late Interruption, (when they drew the whole Year within the compass of four Months) and do intend, by God's Help, to bring to perfection with all convenient Expedition.

Q U A L. IX.

Whosoever makes Profession of Godliness and Holiness of Life, although he be commonly reputed to be both a Fool and a Knave, a Notorious Villain, and a Diabolical Hypocrite, shall nevertheless be allow'd (if duly Elected) to be rightly Qualifi'd. Provided that this Capacity do not extend to C. Fleet — Esquire, J. Dyer Yeoman, Sir H.V. Knight (lately Ejected) and J. Hewson, Cordwainer, of the City of London.

Order'd that Dr. J.O. Mr. Hugh Peters, and Major J. Wildman, be included within this Qualification, notwithstanding they are in Orders.

Q U A L. X.

Whosoever hath had a hand in the Late King's Bloud, or Petition'd to bring him to a Tryal, or hath demolish'd his Houses, or pull'd down Churches to sell the Materials; or can bring proof that he hath been of one or more High Courts of Justice; or one or more Committees of Safety, or Sequestration; or the Committee for Propagation of the Gospel; or hath been a Commissioner of the Excheire, a Sequestrator, Treasurer, or Trustee for the Sale of Kings Lands, or Goods, or Bishops, and Deans and Chapters, and Delinquent's Lands; and hath gotten a considerable Estate, by Buying and Selling the aforesaid Lands; and can make it appear that his Head is forfeited to the Tower on London-bridge, and the four Quarters of his Outward man to the four respective Gates of the City, upon the happening of any Revolution, to the general Settlement of the Nation: Any and every such Person is declar'd rightly Qualifi'd to Sit in this present Parliament; and shall be admitted without taking any Oath at all; for a man's *Skin is tenderer than his Conscience*, and this World much nearer to him than the next.

Q U A L.

Q U A L. XI.

Whosoever can bring proof, (by the loss of his *Ears*, or otherwise), that he hath stood on the *Pillory* for *Perjury*, *Forgery*, *Faction*, or *Sedition*, to disturb the *Government* of the Late King; or that he hath been *burnt* in the *Hand*, *Forehead*, or *Shoulder*, thrown over the *Bar*, set in the *Stocks*, *Carted* or *whipt* at the *Tail* of a *Cart*, for any thing by him *done*, *said*, or *written*, against the said *Government*, before the Year 1642. shall be *approv'd* as most fitly Qualifi'd to Sit in *Parliament*. Provided that this shall not extend to *W. P.* of *Swanswick Esquire*, *Uster Bencher of Lincolns-Inn*; nor to *Major W. P.* &c.

Q U A L. XII.

Whosoever can bring proof that he is a man of a *publick Spirit*, fit for all times and *Occasions*; of approved *Liberty* of *Conscience*, and of *Courage* and *Resolution* to encounter any Danger that extends to *Soul* or *Body*, (if need be), rather than *Live out of Authority* and *Command*; or under the *Laws* of *God* or *Man*: That he hath proper *Suits* for the *Service* of the present *Government*, and can do the same things by the *Spirit* of *God*, which other men are drawn to by the *Temptation* of the *Devil*: That can *Break Oaths* by *Providence*, and *Forswear* himself to the *Glory* of *God*; *Deal* falsely and *treacherously* with men out of *Conscience*, and verily believeth it to be a greater *Sin* to *Name* *Faith*, than to *Break* it: That *Religion* is his *Trade*, and *God* himself his *Occupation*: That he can *Hold forth* any *Useful*, though *Notorious Untruth* with convenient *Obstinacy*, until he believeth it himself, and so renders it no *Sin*: That he hath an excellent *Spirit*, to find out *ways* of *raising Money*; and will deserve his share both of the *Substance* and *Curses* of the *People*: Any and every such Person is declar'd to be most aptly Qualifi'd to *Elett*, or be *Elected Member* of this present *Parliament*. Provided that this *Capacity* do not extend to *Bulstrode Whistlock Esquire*, *Richard Salway Grocer*, lately *elected* this *House*:

Q U A L. XIII.

Whosoever can produce Testimony that he hath taken the *Oath* of *Allegiance and Supremacy*, the *Protestation*, the *Solemn League and Covenant*, the *Engagement*, to be true and faithful to the present *Government*,

vernment, without King, or *House of Lords* : That he hath subscrib'd the *Addresses* to *Live and Die* with *Oliver and Richard Cromwel*; and taken the *Oaths* to be true and faithful to the *Governments* under them; and yet feels no *alteration* in his *Conscience*, but is ready to take the *Oath of Abjuration* of *Charles Stuart, King Jesus*, or any other *single Person* : Any and every such Person is declar'd rightly *Qualifi'd* to *Elect*, or be *Elected* a *Member* of this present *Parliament*, and shall be admitted to *Sit*, (being *duely Elected*) without taking any *further Oath* at all.

Q U A L. XIV.

Order'd, that a *Bill* be forthwith brought in, to make *Newgate*, *Bridewel*, and *Bedlam*, *Corporations*; that *Writs* may be issu'd out to empower them to choose their respective *Representatives*, to *Serve* in this present *Parliament*, in as full manner as the *Upper Bench* and the *Fleet* have already done.

Q U A L. XV.

Any *Nobelman*, or late *Peer* of the *Realm*, that will *Renounce* his *Creation*, or his *Creator*, (and is otherwise *Qualifi'd*) shall be capable, (being first *Naturaliz'd* by an *Act* of this *House*) to be made a *Knight*, *Citizen*, or *Burgess*; and, being *duely Elected* and *Sworn*, shall be admitted to *Sit* among the *Rabble* of this *House*, in as full manner as *P. H. Esquire*, late *Earl of P.* and *Squire W. C.* late *Earl of S.* at this present do. Provided always, that this shall not extend to any *Peer* of the late *Other House*, that having a *Trade* to get his *Living* honestly by, did nevertheless betake himself to so lewd a course of *Life*.

Q U A L. XVI.

Whosoever by *Fraud*, *Coven*, or otherwise, hath possess'd himself of another man's *Estate*, or gotten into his hands any *Office* or *Place* of considerable Value, by *ejecting*, *indirectly*, the *right Owner* thereof, and does not know how to maintain and justify the same so well, as by being chosen a *Member* of this *House*; he shall be approved of in so doing, to have given good *Security* for his *Fidelity* to the present *Government*, and be capable to *Elect*, or be *Elected*, &c.

Resolved that the *Curses of the People* shall be before him (that is to say, from this present 14th. of February 1659.) be reputed and taken for their *Free Voices*; and whosoever hath most of the *Curses* of his Country, shall be understood to have most of their *Free Voices*, and be approv'd as most fitly *Qualify'd* to sit in this present Parliament: For such will be very profitable *Members* to this *House*, when it shall be judg'd seasonable to make the *People* pay for their *Cursing*, as well as they have done for their *Swearing*.

Q U A L. XVII.

No man shall be admitted to sit in This *House*, as a *Member* thereof, howsoever duly *Qualify'd* and *Elected*, (Except before Excepted) until he hath taken the following *Oath* upon the Holy *Evangelists*.

The OATH.

I A. B. do swear in the presence of Almighty God, and by the contents of This Book, to be True and Faithful to this present Parliament, as it is now *Un-establish'd*; and to the *KEEPERS OF THE LIBERTIES OF ENGLAND*, (Unsight, Unseen) whether they are of *Invisible* and *Internal Nature*, as *Fiends, Pugs, Elves, Fairies, Imps, or Goblins*; or whether they are *Incarnate*, as *Red-Coats, Loupiers, Corporals, Troopers, and Dragooneers*. I do also swear, that neither *Charles Stuart*, nor any Person claiming from King *James*, shall ever be Restor'd to the *Imperial Crown of England, Scotland, and Ireland*, either by *Foreign* or *Domestick Assistance*; all *Dispensations and Out-goings* of *Providence*, to the contrary notwithstanding. I do likewise swear never to *Understand*, nor *Believe* any thing that is against the *Authority, Interest, or Sense* of This *House*; and that I will never give my *Vote* to determine the *Sitting* thereof, during the *Natural Life* of every *Member* now There *Sitting*; nor consent to the *Establishing* of any thing but *Taxes, Excise, Free-Quarter, Plunder, Confiscations, Arbitrary Government, High Courts of Justice, Committees of Sale and Sequestration, a Gospel-Preaching Ministry, and Liberty of Conscience*. I do further swear, that I will constantly *Believe* in all the *Priviledges of Parliament*, as ^{the}

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the House believes, and that I will, to the uttermost of my Power, Maintain and Defend the same, although I do not understand (nor ever will) what they are, or how far they extend. And lest the present Members should (when the House is full) be secluded by their own Votes, (by which the secluded Members are declar'd Incapable of ever Sitting in Parliament, or bearing any Office of Trust in the Commonwealth;) I do Swear, that the secluded Members (properly so call'd) are not those who have been twice secluded, that is to say, the present Members now Sitting; but those who have been secluded but once, that is, the major part of the Long Parliament: As also, that when it shall seem good unto this Parliament, to make every Member thereof an Officer, or Commander in the Army, this House will, nevertheless, be no Council of Officers, but the very Parliament, and the Sword full in the hand of the Civil Magistrate. I do also Swear, that whatsoever Time shall hereafter produce (for Government's off) for the agrantage of the present Parliament, or whatsoever they shall at any time Do, Say, or Swear, in order thereto, how contrary soever to any thing by them formerly Done, Said, or Sworn; is, and will be always the GOOD OLD CAUSE, and the WORK OF THE LORD: That the present Distractions are for his Glory, and the Peace of the Government, and that the Slavery of the English Nation is for the Liberty of the People: That notwithstanding tis as hard for them to change their Masters, as for Christian Bondslaves in Turkie to do it; and that they are convey'd from Government to Government, as Rogues are from Constable to Constable, still to be Whipp'd and Punish'd; all is for their Freedom and Protection in their ancient Laws, Rights, and Immunities. Lastly, I do swear never to divulge the Secrets of this House, nor discover the hidden Mysterie thereof; The admirable Art of managing Fallions with confederate Contests in ordinary Matters; and Starving and Tayling with the Rabble of Parties in Businesses of Profit and Advantage; to carry on private Designs under the Masque of publick Good: The subtle ways of Packing Committees, and Progging Businesses without doors: The ingenious Artifices of double Dealing, by Selling with one hand, buying with the other, whereby several Members have afforded themselves good Bargains of Delinquent Estates, in suborn'd Purchaser's Names: The most excellent invention of advising Votes, and finding out the true value of a bolding, or secondng Voice, third, fourth, or fifth; how many a ~~confusing~~ Voice goes for, like the last Truck at Picquet; how to Bulwark all these upon Account, so that every

every *Shoaler* may have his Due: with infinite other curios and
usefull Sciences, which the present Members out of their long Practice
and Experience have found out, to the Glory of God, and Good of
the Nation.

And left the new Elected Members should (notwithstanding all these
Obsts and Qualifications) oppose, and, being the greater number,
over-vote the present Members, (like a new piece of Cloth upon an
old garment, that, instead of Patching, tears it wider;) it is Resolv'd,
that our next Writ for new Elections be issu'd forth at one time, and
no more, until the new return'd Members have been intrusted in the
Practice of the House, and (being engag'd by profitable Implem'ts)
have given proof of their Conformity thereto; or, in case of Refu-
sal, have been Elected.

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